

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, September 18, 2001
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Ocotillo Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chair
Carol Scherbarth , ADOT
Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Debbie Burdette, Glendale
*Donald French, Goodyear
*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Reed Kempton, Maricopa County

Brian Fellows, Mesa
*Tim Bolton, Peoria
*Kristina Fields, Phoenix
Randi Alcott, RPTA
*Vacant, Scottsdale
Elizabeth Thomas, Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jill Anderson, Chandler
Maureen DeCindis, MAG
Grant Penland, Surprise

1. Call to Order

Chairman Patrick McDermott called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of the August 21, 2001 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force

Brian Fellows of Mesa said that the word Ranch should be added to the end of the name Spur Cross. Brian also asked the committee if the meeting scheduled on October 8th should be rescheduled because it is Columbus Day and staff may have a holiday. It was decided to keep the meeting as originally scheduled. Brian Fellows moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force from August 21, 2001. Debbie Burdette, City of Glendale, seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

No one in the audience wished to address the Task Force. Patrick McDermott, Chandler, introduced Jill Anderson as the new Transportation Planner for alternate modes from the City of Chandler.

4. Staff Report

Maureen DeCindis, MAG staff, reported on the results of the bicycle facility survey. The survey was initially mailed in March to 27 member jurisdictions in MAG. There were 17 members who did not reply to the survey. After the TRC meeting on August 28th, Pat McDermott was asked to send the bicycle facility survey results to all TRC members. The survey was resubmitted to those agencies who had not responded earlier. As of September 19, 2001, there are 13 cities without response. Patrick McDermott has asked that the words “did not respond” be added to the survey. He will write a cover letter to the members of the Transportation Review Committee and, MAG staff will attach the survey results and mail to all TRC members.

Maureen encouraged all members to attend the Bicycling and Walking 2001 Conference on October 3, 2001. The topic will focus on Street Reclaiming: Creating Vibrant Communities. The speaker is coming from Australia to present some very innovative concepts.

Maureen is also working on the Open Space Conference scheduled for February 12, 2001 at ASU. She is collecting newsletter contacts and asked members of the committee to submit names and email addresses of newsletters. Conference notices will be sent out as part of the pre-publicity for the event.

5. Member Agency Report

Randi Alcott, RPTA, announced that the Bike Education project has not started because Valley Metro is still processing the contract with MAG. Upon final attorney approval, the project will begin. Tami Ryall, Town of Gilbert asked about the public service announcement. Randi said that some media time will be bought on cable television. Randi thanked everyone for their help.

Elizabeth Thomas, City of Tempe, announced that on September 25th, the City of Tempe will host another neighborhood meeting for the bridge design of Country Club Way Bridge. The meeting will be held at Bustos Elementary School. They will set up a task force of 15 members to work with the Arizona Department of Transportation to help design improvements and parks. The city has already met with ADOT to determine how the bridge elements will considerate the noise walls. On Sunday October 21, Tempe will be host the Tempe Bike Ride. There will be a live band, t-shirts, bilingual and posters. They expect 1,500 riders because they are mailing registration forms to those who preregistered last year but the event will be held the same weekend as Tour de Fam.

Brian Fellows, City of Mesa, is organizing a series of community bike rides, after work rides for city employees and some weekend rides for families in fall and spring. Tami Ryall, Town of Gilbert asked how Mesa will advertise them and suggested an ad in the newspaper. Brian doesn't want the rides to be that big to begin with. Mesa is also sponsoring a Kids Walk to School on October 2 at Emerson school.

6. Update of the Activities of the Transportation Review Committee

Pat gave an update on the last TRC committee meeting. All modal chairs gave an overview of their area and asked for more consideration and more funding. The TRC members asked for our bicycle facilities survey and wanted to know what each community is doing. The survey will be mailed to TRC members.

7. Association for Pedestrian Bicycle Professionals Conference

Brian Fellows, City of Mesa, discussed a cooperative effort of member agencies to develop a booth for the November APBP conference. Brian suggested that all member agencies bring materials from their individual cities to the next meeting on October 8th. It was suggested that a MAG sign be created with all cities listed in the background with watermark. Pat asked if anyone else is going and could help staff the booth. It was suggested the ROSS plan executive summary be reprinted to distribute at the event. Randi Alcott, RPTA, asked what the conference was about. Brian explained that it was a professional development seminar, in conjunction with a Dan Burden workshop and the Tour de Tucson bike ride.

8. Progressive Bicycle/Pedestrian Cities

Brian Fellows, City of Mesa, presented “An Overview of Successful Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities” from his findings on a recent tour of the bicycle facilities and programs in Oregon.. Brian was sent on a fact finding mission to Portland, Salem, Corvallis and Eugene, Oregon. These cities seem to be successful because of the following characteristics: will, vision, culture, planning, facilities and destinations. Summary of Brian’s presentation follows.

Innovative designs included:

- Painted blue bike lanes applied to asphalt in high traffic areas.
- Bike-only left turn lanes on main collector streets to make left turns easier.
- Bicycles merging with traffic signs.
- Contra-flow bike lanes on one-way streets so bicycles can ride in either direction.
- Bicycle-transit link by putting racks at bus stations.
- Bicycle and pedestrian bridges.

Safety considerations included:

- Pedestrian refuges
- Crosswalks
- Overhead lighted signs
- Advance staggered stop bars.
- Bike boxes which extend bike space at an intersection to allow the bicyclist to get in front of the cars.

Economic development improvements included:

- Bikes are incorporated into the design of the downtown.
- People ride to restaurants.
- Businesses make an effort to attract bikes with signs such as “Bikes Welcome.”

- Bike facilities occur in many types of socio-economic settings in high income neighborhood with trail links to river paths.
- Center for Appropriate Transportation consists of bike and rack manufacturing, messenger service.
- High end retail has bike parking.

Bicycle Parking features include.

- Artistic design bike parking.
- Bike cage at transit stations.
- Bike lockers at rail stations.
- Covered parking for bikes in downtown.
- Bike parking for events by creating a specific fenced area that is always staffed.
- Well designed racks at retail sites are used and poorly designed bike racks are not.
- Weather protection ramadas protect bikes especially from the rain.
- Bike cages are placed in parking garages.

Grassroots traffic calming included:

- Hand made signs by neighbors to thank residents for driving slowly.

Reed Kempton, Maricopa County, asked what the cities did on arterial streets. Brian responded that they do not do anything different than we do here. Where pavement width permitted, they would paint bike lanes.

9. Trails Operations and Maintenance

Maureen DeCindis, MAG staff asked for ideas on ways to continue trail planning. Tami Ryall suggested that adding a session or a day onto the State Park conference might be a good way to create a plan for future. Other ideas included bringing the stakeholders group back together and discussing implementation strategies from the ROSS plan, working with the Parks departments because most off-road trails are planned there, or inviting Parks representatives to the Bike Task Force for a special discussion. Randi Alcott asked what are the needs and who are the players. The committee felt that there are too many meetings and whatever is done should be integrated into meetings that are already planned.

10. Next Meeting

The Regional Bicycle Task Force will meet in October to allow adequate discussion of bicycle and shared-use path/trail projects submitted for federal transportation funds on **Monday, October 8, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Saguaro Room, and **Monday, October 22, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Saguaro Room.

Tami Ryall asked to add an agenda item to the November meeting to discuss the new TIP form and how to make the application less cumbersome.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.